GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
AGRICULTURE
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:3535
ANSWERED ON:21.03.2001
DEVELOP VARIETIES OF MAIZE
AMBATI BRAHMANAIAH

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Institute of Council for Agriculture Research has set up a Task Force to develop high yielding varieties of maize in the dry areas in the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the time by which the Task Force is likely to be constituted;

(d) the names of the varieties developed so far in ICAR`s institute in this field;

(e) whether it is a fact that the yield from ICAR`s institutes in maize has not been upto the mark;

(f) whether the Government are approaching foreign institutes to come up with suitable varieties in maize; and
(g) if so, the details thereof?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (DR. DEBENDRA PRADHAN)

(a) The All India Coordinated Crop Improvement Project on Maize was started in 1957.It was elevated to the status of Directorate for Maize Research (DMR) during 1994-95 with its Head Quarter at Delhi.It addresses the location specific multi-location research network in the country. Developing high yielding maize varieties and their production technology for rainfed conditions is a high priority ongoing programme under DMR as about 75 percent area under maize cultivation in the country is rainfed. In view of these Institutional arrangements, Indian Council of Agricultural Research (ICAR) has not set up any Task Force for this purpose.

(b) & (c): Question does not arise.

(d) In recent years, 10 varieties/hybrids suitable for cultivation in different rainfed areas have been developed by the ICAR.The details are given in Annexure-I.

(e) No, Sir. The maize varieties/hybrids developed by the ICAR are high yielding with yield ranging from 2 to 4.5 tonnes/ha in early maturing group, upto 6.5 tonnes/ha in full season kharif crop and upto 10 tonnes/ha in full season rabi crop.

(f) The ICAR is working in close collaboration with International Institute for Maize and Wheat Research, Maxico and its outreach programmes to come up with still better varieties and hybrids for rainfed areas.

(g) The inbred lines provided by International Institute for Maize and Wheat Research, Mexico are being used in Indian maize programme to develop high yielding quality protein maize. A four year workplan between ICAR and International Institute for Maize and Wheat Research, Maxico has been signed in February, 2001.

ANNEXURE-I

Details of Maize Varierties and hybrids developed and released by the ICAR for rainfed cultivation during 1994-2000

S. No.	Name of the Variety/hybrid	Year of release	Yield Range t/ha	Area of adaptation
1.	Composite Megha	1994	2.0-3.5	Western UP, Punjab, Haryana, Delhi
2	Composite Mahi Kanchan	1995	2.0-3.5	Rajasthan, Gujarat, Madhya Pradesh, Maharashtra
3	Pusa Early Hybrid Makka I	1997	2.5-4.0	Andhra Pradesh, Tamil Nadu, Karnataka, Rajasthan, Gujarat, Madhya Pradesh
4.	Pusa Early Hybrid Makka 2	1997	2.5-4.0	Andhra Pradesh, Tamil Nadu, Karnataka, Rajasthan, Gujarat, Madhy Pradesh

5.	Hybrid Prakash	1997	3.0-4.5	Across the country
6.	Hybrid Him 129	1997	3.0-4.5	Himalayan region of UP, HP, J&K and Madhya Pradesh, Rajasthan, Gujarat
7.	Vivek Hybrid 4	1999	4.0-4.5	Rajasthan, Gujarat, Madhya Pradesh
8.	Hyb. Gaurav	1999	3.0-4.5	Rajasthan, Gujarat, Madhya Pradesh
9.	Vivek Hybrid 9	2000	3.0-4.5	J&K, HP, UP hills, NEH region, Andhra Pradesh, Karnataka, Tamil Nadu
10.	Pusa Early Hybrid Makka 3	2000	3.0-4.5	Andhra Pradesh, Karnataka, Tamil Nadu